

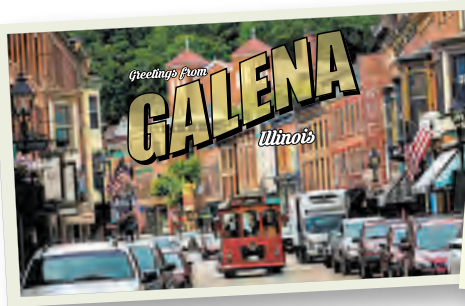
CHICAGO SPORTS

Illinois, Smith sticking to a long-term plan

U. of I. football coach fully committed to rebuild, even if it doesn't move as quickly as many fans would hope.



49ERS AT BEARS: The home stretch has arrived in a season with more valleys than peaks.



CELEBRATE THE BICENTENNIAL

A look at what every Illinoisan should do — or see, eat or drink — at least once **Travel**

Early Edition

Chicago Tribune



QUESTIONS? CALL 1-800-TRIBUNE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2017

BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

TRIBUNE SPECIAL REPORT SHRINKING SCHOOLS

“Why should we go without because of our student body? I feel like it’s unfair. We should get the high school treatment too. But, you know, it is what it is.”

— Theron Averett Jr., one of 250 students enrolled at Tilden High School on Chicago’s South Side



JOSE M. OSORIO/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Students at Tilden High School held a raucous pep rally this fall, even though its football team had to forfeit the season due to a lack of players.

Shrinking high schools too small to succeed?

17 CPS facilities hit hard by student flight, Tribune finds

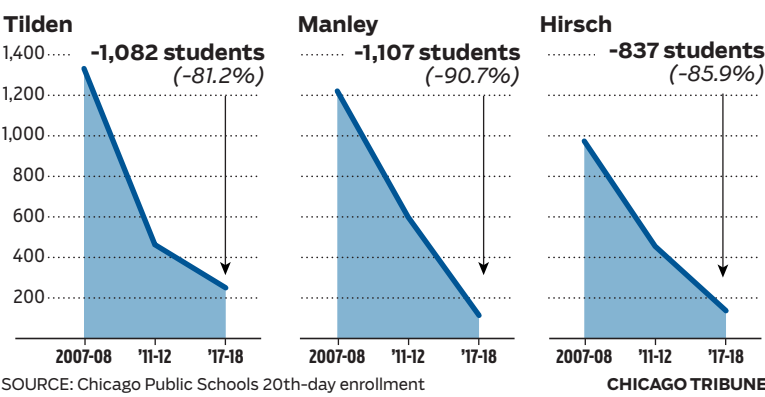
BY JUAN PEREZ JR. AND JENNIFER SMITH RICHARDS
Chicago Tribune

Between classes, Theron Averett Jr. walks past rooms stacked with empty desks and an off-limits area where he’s heard there’s an empty swimming pool. “I’ve never seen it,” he says. He climbs a stairwell where a rainbow-colored mural carries a two-word message for Tilden High School’s students: “Dream Big.”

Averett was one of 250 students enrolled this year at the South Side campus, which Chicago Public Schools says has room for about 1,900 students.

Dwindling enrollment has cut Tilden’s budget. The school now offers only a small slate of classes. Tilden’s football team forfeited most of its season for a lack of players, leaving homecoming without a game to celebrate. Last year’s graduating class, on average, scored 14.5 on the ACT, far short of what’s considered college-ready.

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT With change since 2007-08



In Chicago, where funding follows students, Tilden is one of more than a dozen shrinking neighborhood high schools that has been starved of resources, leaving students like Averett to prepare for their futures in largely empty buildings that can make dreaming big a daily struggle.

“Why should we go without because of our student body?” asked Averett, who dreams of attending college and pursuing a career in law

enforcement. “I feel like it’s unfair. We should get the high school treatment too. But, you know, it is what it is.”

Using academic, demographic and enrollment data — in addition to criteria CPS employed to close 50 schools in 2013 — the Tribune identified 17 neighborhood high schools hit hardest by dwindling enrollment and poor academics. CPS plans to close three of these buildings, as well as a fourth school, next year to make way for a new, consolidated high school in Englewood. The district is also considering a plan to open a charter school in another of the schools, Hirsch, next fall.

The remaining schools, which include historic programs such as Marshall and Fenger, face an uncertain future.

The plight of these schools is one consequence of a school choice system that offers families a wide array of options beyond the

Turn to **High schools**, Page 10

ANALYSIS

Mueller circling Trump’s circle

Flynn plea puts the special counsel closer to president

BY AARON BLAKE
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Paul Manafort? He “played a very limited role for a very limited amount of time” on the Trump campaign. The charges against him? They have “nothing to do with the president.”

George Papadopoulos? Just a low-level “volunteer” for the campaign who wasn’t even worth remembering for both President Donald Trump and Attorney General Jeff Sessions.

These were credibility-straining defenses offered by the White House in the face of charges against Manafort and Papadopoulos. But they’re not going to work now that former White House national security adviser Michael Flynn has pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI.

Turn to **Probe**, Page 32

Ill. finally ready to test babies for Krabbe

BY PATRICIA CALLAHAN
Chicago Tribune

Ten years after lawmakers directed state officials to screen all newborns for a deadly disease, the Illinois Department of Public Health says it is poised to begin testing babies, making it possible for doctors to intervene with a lifesaving treatment.

In a letter to hospitals, Public Health Director Nirav Shah says that beginning Dec. 11, all newborn blood samples will be tested by a state lab for Krabbe disease, a devastating neurological illness that can be treated only if caught in the first days of life.

The tests will be performed with the few drops of blood routinely collected from each newborn’s heel before the baby is sent home from the hospital.

Turn to **Krabbe**, Page 18

Tom Skilling’s forecast High 60 Low 47

Chicago Weather Center: Complete forecast in Nation & World, Page 41

\$3.99 city and suburbs, \$4.99 elsewhere
170th year No. 337 © Chicago Tribune

Official Watch of the NBA

#ThisIsYourTime

TISSOT CHRONO XL SAN ANTONIO SPURS SPECIAL EDITION.

OFFICIAL MERCHANDISE

DISCOVER YOUR OFFICIAL TISSOT NBA TEAM WATCH AT US.TISSOTSHOP.COM AND FINE WATCH & JEWELRY STORES